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SOME SATISFACTIONS IN RURAL LIFE

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C. B. SMITH
National Farm and Home Hour

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What one gets out of rural life depends upon what one brings to it. To some it is an isolated, scant life, with but little in it but hard work and poverty. To others it is a life filled with adventure and not to be exchanged for any other life anywhere.

The life of the farm is a family life where children and parents all work together. It is a great thing to grow up with your children and for children to grow up with their parents. And on the farm the boys help father with the chores about the house and barn and when they are old enough they go with him to work in the fields. The girls help their mother about the house and with the garden, gather the eggs and feed the chickens, help with the milk and butter, and with the gathering and canning of fruits and vegetables. It is always a joy for the farm boy and girl to go with father Sunday mornings out to the back lot to salt the sheep and cattle, and then to romp with the dog along the lane and by the creek and marsh. The boy or girl that hasn't had opportunity to grow up on the farm has missed something in life that gives satisfaction and is worth while.

The life of the farmer is a varied life, and not a monotonous grind. In the spring he plows and harrows the ground and sows his crops. In the summer he cultivates his corn, cotton and potatoes, makes his hay and harvests his wheat and other small grains. In the fall he thrashes his grain, cuts and husks his corn, picks his cotton. In the winter he fattens his stock, cuts his wood, and fills his ice house.

Winter time too is the time for reading, attending Farmers' Institutes and meetings, and making his plans for the following seasons. Mixed with it all are occasional picnics and neighborly visits, and an occasional trip to the State Fair or neighboring city.

In farming a man is an individual, and that is a satisfaction. He plans his work, sets his own tasks, lives his own life. Works hard in rush seasons, and eases up between time. He has the companionship of animals who trust him, and neighbors who respect him, and who help out in time of sickness or disasters.

The farmer deals with elemental things. He knows the glories of a summer morning, the smell of the soil and of curing hay, he knows the heat of noon time and the chill of autumn frosts and early winter as he husks out his corn. He has the satisfaction of expressing himself in the character of his home and farmstead, and the quality of the stock he grows. He is likewise a real creator. Starting with a single bushel of wheat planted in the naked earth, he fertilizes and tills and waters

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it and produces 20 or more bushels of wheat. From a bushel of seed corn he may produce 100 bushels of ears.

And so I might go on.

If a man likes out-of-door life; if he likes association with animals and with growing crops; if the silence of the fields and the smell of the new-turned furrow appeal to him; if he finds delight in the early morning air and the song of birds; if he rejoices in the sight of green fields of tasseling corn and of ripening wheat; if he wants the best things of the earth for his table as they come fresh from the soil; if he is not afraid of hard work; if he can be content with a modest income; if he is not ambitious for fame, and if he has a good wife in sympathy with rural life -- then he may take up farming with the assurance that he will find in it abundant satisfaction.